

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 28, 2006

SENATE BILL

No. 1451

Introduced by Senator Kehoe

February 23, 2006

An act to add Section 8588.15 to the Government Code, relating to public safety.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1451, as amended, Kehoe. Emergency preparedness, planning, and information.

Existing law provides for emergency services, as specified.

This bill would provide that the State Fire Marshal shall convene a permanent advisory committee, composed of representatives from specified groups, to make recommendations to the State Fire Marshal, the Legislature, and appropriate state and local agencies regarding preparedness, planning, procedures, and the provision of accessible information relating to the emergency evacuation of designated groups, ~~including the elderly, persons with disabilities, and persons without access to transportation,~~ from public and private facilities *and private residences* during emergency or disaster situations. The bill would require the State Fire Marshal to develop and host training workshops, to prepare and disseminate brochures and other relevant materials, and to seek research funding to develop new technologies and information systems relating to the evacuation of the designated groups from public and private facilities *and private residences* during emergency and disaster situations. The bill would set forth legislative findings and declarations regarding the need for the bill and would state that it is the intent of the Legislature that the annual Budget Act

shall appropriate federal Homeland Security funds to the State Fire Marshal in order to implement the act.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) Recent emergencies, such as “9/11” and Hurricane Katrina,
4 have underscored the need for government to have in place
5 emergency disaster preparedness plans, procedures, and
6 accessible information.

7 (b) Specifically, these disasters have demonstrated that
8 emergency disaster preparedness plans, procedures, and
9 accessible information have not been developed to serve the
10 unique needs of ~~the elderly, those who lack access to~~
11 ~~transportation, and~~ those with physical, sensory, and cognitive
12 disabilities; California is among those states that lack procedures
13 to address the needs of ~~the elderly, those who lack access to~~
14 ~~transportation, and~~ those with disabilities, in evacuating public
15 and private facilities *and private residences* during an emergency
16 or disaster.

17 (c) The convening by the State Fire Marshal of a permanent
18 advisory committee to provide the necessary input to the State
19 Fire Marshal, the Governor’s Office of Emergency Service, other
20 appropriate state and local agencies, and the Legislature
21 regarding evacuation procedures, emergency disaster
22 preparedness plans, and the provision of accessible information
23 for the elderly, those who lack access to transportation, and those
24 with disabilities during emergency and disaster situations will
25 help solve this critical need.

26 SEC. 2. Section 8588.15 is added to the Government Code, to
27 read:

28 8588.15. (a) The State Fire Marshal shall convene a
29 permanent advisory committee *on or before January 1, 2008*, to
30 make recommendations regarding preparedness, planning, and
31 procedures relating to the emergency evacuation of the groups
32 designated in *paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive, of* subdivision (b),
33 ~~including the elderly, persons with disabilities, and persons~~

1 ~~without access to transportation~~, from public and private facilities
2 ~~and private residences~~ during emergency and disaster situations;
3 the committee shall also make recommendations regarding the
4 providing of accessible information regarding preparedness,
5 planning, and procedures relating to the emergency evacuation of
6 the groups designated in *paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive, of*
7 subdivision (b) from public and private facilities *and private*
8 *residences* during emergency and disaster situations.

9 (b) The advisory committee shall include ~~13 members,~~
10 ~~including a representative from each of the following groups:~~
11 *representatives from each of the following groups:*

- 12 (1) Persons with physical disabilities.
- 13 (2) Persons who are blind or visually impaired.
- 14 (3) Persons who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.
- 15 (4) *Persons with cognitive disabilities.*
- 16 ~~(4)~~
- 17 (5) Persons with developmental disabilities.
- 18 ~~(5)~~
- 19 (6) Persons with learning disabilities.
- 20 ~~(6) Persons without access to transportation.~~
- 21 ~~(7) Persons who are elderly.~~
- 22 ~~(8) Licensed nursing homes.~~
- 23 ~~(9)~~
- 24 (7) Local government.
- 25 ~~(10)~~
- 26 (8) Appropriate state agencies.
- 27 ~~(11)~~
- 28 (9) Fire officials.
- 29 ~~(12)~~
- 30 (10) Researchers in emergency evacuation of groups specified
31 in this subdivision from public or private facilities *and private*
32 *residences.*
- 33 ~~(13)~~
- 34 (11) Building owners of public or private facilities.
- 35 (c) (1) ~~The~~ *On or before January 1, 2009, and every two*
36 *years thereafter, the* committee shall provide recommendations
37 to the State Fire Marshal, the Legislature, and appropriate state
38 and local agencies regarding preparedness, planning, procedures,
39 and provision of accessible information on the emergency
40 evacuation of the groups designated in paragraphs (1) to ~~(7)~~ (6),

1 inclusive, of subdivision (b) from public and private facilities
2 *and private residences* during emergency or disaster situations.

3 (2) The recommendations shall include, but shall not be
4 limited to, proposed legislative and regulatory actions, and
5 relevant research or technology design.

6 (3) The recommendations developed by the advisory
7 committee shall be shared with the Governor's Office of
8 Emergency Services for inclusion into the State Emergency
9 Management System.

10 (d) (1) The State Fire Marshal, in consultation with the
11 advisory committee, shall develop and host training workshops
12 on the following subjects as they relate in particular to the groups
13 designated in paragraphs (1) to ~~(7)~~ (6), inclusive, of subdivision
14 (b):

15 (A) Emergency evacuation procedures for the effective and
16 safe evacuation from public and private facilities *and private*
17 *residences*.

18 (B) Emergency or disaster preparedness or planning.

19 (C) The provision of accessible information on preparedness,
20 planning, and procedures relating to the emergency evacuation of
21 the groups designated in paragraphs (1) to ~~(7)~~ (6), inclusive, of
22 subdivision (b) from public and private facilities *and private*
23 *residences* during emergency and disaster situations.

24 (2) The State Fire Marshal shall prepare and disseminate
25 brochures and other relevant materials on preparedness, planning,
26 and procedures relating to the emergency evacuation of the
27 groups designated in paragraphs (1) to ~~(7)~~ (6), inclusive, of
28 subdivision (b) from public and private facilities *and private*
29 *residences* during emergency and disaster situations; the
30 materials shall be available in accessible formats, including, but
31 not limited to, Braille, large print, audio cassette tape, and
32 electronic file.

33 (e) The State Fire Marshal shall seek research funding to
34 develop new technologies and information systems that will
35 assist in the evacuation of the groups designated in paragraphs
36 (1) to ~~(7)~~ (6), inclusive, of subdivision (b) from public and
37 private facilities *and private residences* during emergency and
38 disaster situations.

- 1 (f) It is the intent of the Legislature that the annual Budget Act
- 2 shall appropriate federal Homeland Security funds to the State
- 3 Fire Marshal in order to implement this section.

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